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## Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

### Romania - Tree Nuts report

**Report Categories:**

Tree Nuts

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**Report Highlights:**

Tree nut consumption is anticipated to continue rising supported by changing consumer behavior. Romanian walnut production is expected to slightly grow in 2016 to 33,000 MT with a fifth of the production set for export. The United States remains the fourth major tree nut supplier and the leading almond supplier on the Romanian market.

## General Information:

### Production

Romania is the second largest walnut producer in the European Union after France and the tenth largest producer worldwide. Over the past few years walnut production has been steadily growing. According to data provided for 2015, there were 1.76 million walnut trees in Romania producing almost 32,500 MT of walnuts (please see Table 1). Walnut trees are in general owned by small farmers, but increased interest for this horticultural crop has been noticed lately, as EU funding for fruit trees became available. It is expected in the future this interest will be reflect by higher levels of production.

Almond trees are not planted on extended areas due to the climatic conditions, being limited to the areas with Mediterranean climate in the southern and south-western regions. The production is negligible though, so consumption is covered by imports.

**Walnut area and production, Romania 2011-2016**

Walnut trees		Years					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Number of trees	'000	1,806	1,818	1,810	1,838	1,763	1,800
Production	MT	35,073	30,546	31,764	31,514	32,426	33,000

*Source: National Institute of Statistics; FAS estimates for 2016*

### Consumption

Nuts are in general consumed fresh as a snack, plain or in mixes, and utilized as food ingredients in the bakery industry and home-cooking. Demand continues to increase as consumers adopt healthy habits and integrate these fruits in their diet for their nutritional benefits. Walnut consumption is relatively constant along the year, with a tendency for increase during the winter months and peaks during certain religious holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, when traditional cakes are prepared.

### Trade

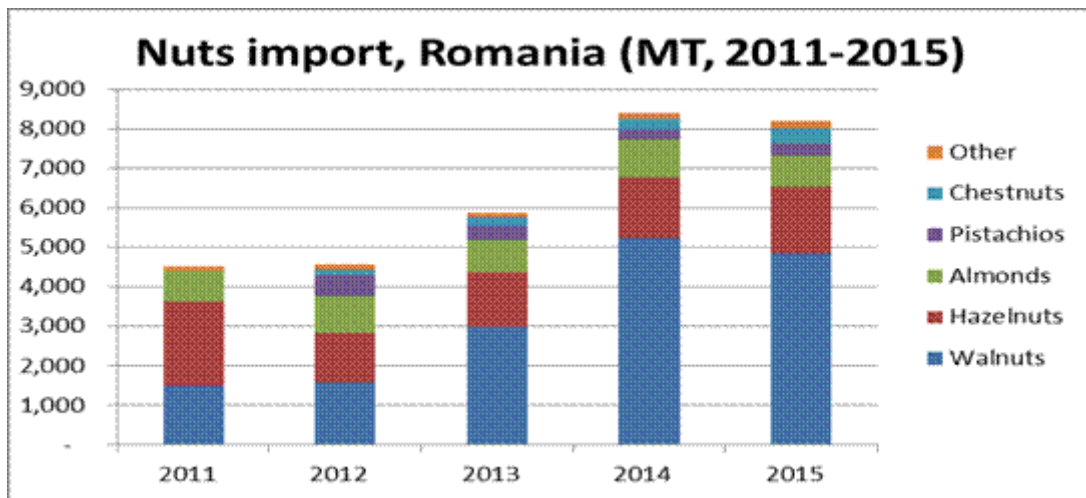
Romanian trade in tree nuts intensified during the past five years. Tree nut imports grew from 5,261 MT (U.S. \$ 18 million) in 2011 to 8,199 MT (almost U.S. \$ 38 million) in 2015. Romanian tree nut exports followed the same positive trend growing from 5,746 MT in 2011 to 8,881 MT in 2015, walnuts accounting for 94 percent of tree nut exports.

The walnut category accounts for half of tree nuts imports in Romania, followed by hazelnuts and almonds. The United States is the fourth major tree nuts supplier on the Romanian market after Ukraine, Hungary, and Italy, with a market share of 8 percent in terms of value. Direct U.S. tree nut exports to Romania grew by 61 percent in five years from 528 MT in 2011 to 849 MT in 2015, of which 610 MT of in-shell walnuts and 239 MT of shelled almonds. This represents only direct exports, as indirect exports, products of U.S. origin coming in through other EU member states, account roughly for an additional 50 percent of the direct exports. The United States also supplies pistachios to the Romanian market through other EU member states. The United States is the leading almond supplier in Romania with a market share of 26 percent. Trade figures available for January – May 2016 show an increase of 50 percent in case of U.S. almonds exports compared to last year.

### Romania - Nuts Import, Fresh or dried (MT)

Description	Calendar Year				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL Nuts, Fresh Or Dried	5,261	4,579	5,882	8,383	8,199
Walnuts, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	870	901	1,738	2,186	2,566
Walnuts, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	619	670	1,264	3,053	2,286
Hazelnuts Or Filberts, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	2,109	1,184	1,348	1,486	1,629
Hazelnuts Or Filberts, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	36	69	13	38	65
Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	754	922	737	916	747
Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	15	19	84	40	29
Pistachios, In Shell, Fresh Or Dried	-	509	333	246	243
Pistachios, Shelled, Fresh Or Dried	-	19	25	24	56
Chestnuts, In Shell, Fresh Or Dried	-	132	208	241	366
Chestnuts, Shelled, Fresh Or Dried	0	0	15	29	24
Macadamia Nuts, Shelled, Fresh Or Dried	0	3	5	5	5
Nuts Nesoi, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled Or Not	102	138	112	120	182

Source: Global Trade Atlas



End of report